City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	Lafayette City Council
By:	Steven Falk, Lafayette City Manager
Date Written:	March 4, 2008
Meeting Date:	March 10, 2008
Subject:	**Letter to Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Introduction
As you know, the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board is in the process of revising the permit that controls the treatment of stormwater before it enters the Bay through municipal storm drains. The draft permit is hundreds of pages long and would impose many new treatment regulations on local governments, but does not identify a new funding source for such implementation.

Lafayette has already commented on the permit through its liaison, the Contra Costa Clean Water program.

The Board meets on Tuesday, March 11th.

The attached letter, from Mayor Anderson, encourages the Board to extend the period for public comments by six months. This would give local governments time to study the regulations and make proposals that might be both workable and funded.

If the Council approves the attached letter, it will be either faxed or hand-delivered to the Board meeting.

Recommendation
Direct Mayor Anderson to sign the attached letter.

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March 10, 2008

Mr. Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Tentative Order for the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit
Request for Six Month Extension of Public Comment Period and
Deferral of March 11 Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the public comment period for the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit be extended an additional six months.

The reason for this request is that the draft permit must be rewritten. It is overly-prescriptive, includes tasks that provide questionable benefit, and provides no comprehensive funding source to implement the requirements. There may be opportunities to value-engineer the regulations so as to consolidate tasks while still meeting water quality goals at a lower cost.

Given the complexity of unresolved issues and the import of these decisions, the Lafayette City Council urges a six month extension. The deferral will provide the Regional Board with the opportunity to confer with local agencies and develop alternative permit requirements that are effective and fundable. The end result should be a permit that is endorsed and supported at the local level.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please contact Steven Falk, Lafayette City Manager, if you have any questions regarding Lafayette's concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Anderson
Mayor